New Nouveau Brunswick CANADA

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# Minister's message for National Aboriginal Day (04/06/16)

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FREDERICTON (CNB) - Following is a message from Justice Minister Brad Green, Minister responsible for Aboriginal Affairs, on the occasion of National Aboriginal Day, Monday, June 21, 2004.

"National Aboriginal Day, June 21, is an occasion for all Canadians to celebrate and honour the Aboriginal peoples of our country. The Mi'kmaq and Maliseet peoples of New Brunswick are an integral, vibrant, and spirited part of our cultural heritage. Unique Aboriginal cultural practices, distinct spiritual beliefs, and significant achievements contribute to our past, present, and future cultural identity.

In celebrating National Aboriginal Day, it is fitting to note that New Brunswick is part of the Mi'kmaq and Maliseet peoples' ancestral homeland. In fact, some of the earliest contact between Europeans and the Aboriginal peoples of Canada took place 400 years ago near St. Croix Island. Through sharing the gifts of medicine, healing, transportation, arts, crafts, and holistic teachings, Aboriginal peoples have made significant and lasting contributions within their communities and to the province of New Brunswick.

The Government of New Brunswick is proud to be a partner with Mi'kmaq and Maliseet peoples throughout our province in a number of areas, including business development, training and education, child and family services, heritage, and cross-cultural awareness. However, many important issues remain outstanding and I encourage all New Brunswickers to renew their commitment to living and working together in peace and harmony.

On National Aboriginal Day please join with me in celebration of the Aboriginal people of New Brunswick, their unique culture, and the gifts they have bestowed upon us."

04/06/16

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